

# ***LAPERM FANCIERS INTERNATIONAL***

## **Constitution**

### **Article I. Name**

This organization shall be known as the LAPERM FANCIERS INTERNATIONAL (LPFI).

### **Article II. Affiliation**

This organization shall be a club for the international promotion and well-being of the LaPerm breed of cats. No part of any profit, dues or donations to the organization shall be used to the benefit of any member or individual.

### **Article III. Objectives**

The objectives of this organization shall be:

To promote the welfare of all cats.

To promote the breeding of LaPerm cats to the TICA and similar generally accepted standards and to promote the health and future of the breed.

To promote LaPerm cats through the sponsorship of show rings, exhibits, breed booths, newsletter and web site.

To promote sportsmanship and friendship among LaPerm breeders worldwide.

### **Article IV. Membership**

Persons interested in the objectives of this organization shall be eligible for membership

### **Article V. Officers and Directors**

The Executive Officers shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition to these 4 Executive Officers, there shall be up to 4 elected Directors. These persons shall be the Executive Board.

### **Article VI. Meetings**

The President shall hold the meetings of the Executive Board at any appropriate time. The decisions of this body shall be reported in the minutes of the meetings. The time and place of the annual general meeting including any and all members eligible to vote, shall be determined each year by the board of directors.

### **Article VII. Dues**

Annual dues shall be payable on January 1st of each year. The amount of dues shall be provided for in the By-Laws.

### **Article VIII. Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution of this organization, any property and assets shall be distributed to a non-profit organization consistent with the policies of participating Registries. In no event, shall any such property or assets be distributed to any member of the organization, or to any private individual.

### **Article IX. Amendments**

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members returning ballots on a mail ballot, provided that the text of the amendment shall have been seen by all members 30 days prior to the deadline for ballot return.

# *LaPerm Fanciers International*

## **By-Laws**

### **Article I.**

#### **A. Membership**

##### Definition of Members

1. Regular Members:
  - a. Must have been associate members in good standing for at least one year.
  - b. Must be an owner and/or breeder of at least one Registered LaPerm.
  - c. Must have shown at least one Registered LaPerm in at least one licensed show within one year of the membership renewal date.
  - d. Must sign and agree to abide by our published Breeder Ethics and agree to abide by generally accepted requirements for breeders.
  - e. Should have a cattery registered with at least one major Breed Registry.
  - f. Cannot have outstanding fines or suspensions with any recognized Feline Breed Registry.
  - g. Will be full voting members as long as they are members in good standing of LaPerm Fanciers International.
2. Associate Members:
  - a. Must have an interest in owning and showing LaPerms
  - b. Should have at least one cat registered with at least one major Feline Breed Registry.
  - c. Should have participated as an exhibitor in at least one licensed show in the past 2 years.
  - d. Cannot have outstanding fines or suspensions with any recognized Feline Breed Registry.
  - e. Associate Members do not vote in elections of officers, directors or for constitutional matters, but may participate in all other club activities.
3. Honorary and Emeritus Members:
  - a. Reserved for designated Founding Members of the LaPerm Fanciers International and other persons as may be designated from time to time by the Officers and Directors.
  - b. Are full voting members without requirements of Regular Members, unless wishing to serve as an Executive Officer or Board Member, in which case all requirements of Regular Members will apply during the term of office.
  - c. Will serve as requested to advise the Officers and Directors as needed in areas of their individual expertise.
  - d. Honorary and Emeritus Members will not be assessed annual dues, but may be required to pay for any additional items available for purchase by Regular or Associate Members.
  - e. Cannot have outstanding fines or suspensions with any recognized Breed Registry.

#### **B: Application for Membership**

Application for Membership must be made in writing and be accompanied by one year's dues. The application must be sent to the Secretary. All new members will be approved by the Officers and Directors.

### **Article II. Dues and list of Members**

The LaPerm Fanciers International members must submit their yearly dues to the club secretary by January 1st of each year. Failure to submit dues by March 31st may result in the delinquent member being dropped from the membership rolls.

1. Regular membership annual dues are \$15 for individual or \$20 for family.
2. Associate membership annual dues are 5.00.
3. Honorary and Emeritus membership dues are waived unless the member is an officer or director of the LaPerm Fanciers International, in which case Regular Member dues will apply.

### **Article III. Meetings**

#### **Section A: Annual Meetings**

The Annual Meeting of the LaPerm Fanciers International will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of March. Election of new officers and directors will be held at this meeting in even numbered years. The meeting may be in person, or electronics means such as conference calling, via internet such as GoToMeeting or IM video conferencing, or other means as determined by the Executive Board. See By-Laws, Article V Section b for Election of New Officers.

As long as there is a minimum of three Executive Board members or Directors, the majority decisions of the voting members may affect any change, amendment or addition to the LaPerm Fanciers International Constitution and By-laws by a 2/3 majority of voting members present at the meeting.

### **Section B: Special Meetings**

The President may call for special meetings as necessary to discuss policy changes or Treasury expenditures in excess of \$250.00. This meeting may be in person, or by electronics means such as conference calling, via internet such as GoToMeeting or IM video conferencing, or other means as determined by the Executive Board. A minimum of three Officers or Directors must be available for the meeting.

## **Article IV. Fiscal year and reports**

### **Section A: Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year shall commence on January 1st and terminate on December 31st of that same year.

### **Section B: Reports**

The Treasurer will present a report showing the LaPerm Fanciers International's financial status for the year. An accounting will be made by the Treasurer at the Annual Meeting and will be updated and published in the LaPerm Fanciers International newsletter at the end of every fiscal year with a quarterly update of income and expenses. This report is to be detailed, showing members with delinquent dues, source of deposits and purpose of disbursements.

### **Section C: Member Secretary of Record**

The Secretary shall be the recording and corresponding Officer, shall keep records of all meetings, shall inform all applicants of election to membership, and shall be responsible to comply with club requirements and timely filing of all reports.

## **Article V. Officers and Directors**

### **Section A: Titles**

The Executive Officers of this club shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors. The same person may hold the office of Secretary and the office of Treasurer. That person shall have the title of Secretary-Treasurer but will have one vote on any executive or general membership decisions. No other person shall hold more than one office.

There will be up to four Directors who will have voting rights on the Executive Board.

### **Section B: Elections**

#### 1. General

All Executive Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors) of the LaPerm Fanciers International will hold office for two years. Any vacant office except President will be filled as per Article V, Section E. Term of Office will be for two years, beginning May 1 of even numbered years. All elections shall be conducted by mail ballot, each eligible member having one vote. The candidates receiving the most votes shall be deemed elected regardless of the number of candidates running.

#### 2. Eligibility to vote

Any Regular or Honorary member in good standing shall be eligible to vote.

#### 3. Candidates

Any Regular or Honorary member in good standing may run for any office.

#### 4. Candidate Declarations and Election Procedure

Any eligible candidate must declare that they are running for office no later than Dec 1st. of odd numbered years. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting.

#### 5. Tie-Vote Procedure

In the event of a tied vote, a special ballot will be mailed out to all voting members. The President will not vote in this special ballot and in the event of another tie vote, the President will cast the deciding vote.

### **Section C: Conflicting Memberships**

No person shall be eligible to hold office in the LaPerm Fanciers International who is an officer of any recognized feline registry or who is an officer of any other cat club of any recognized feline registry.

### **Section D:**

#### **Duties**

#### **President:**

The President shall be the chief officer of the club and preside at all meetings or be made aware of all proceedings and proposals (by mail, phone, fax or email) before any vote can be taken. The President shall make appointments as necessary for the proper government of the club, not covered by the By-laws; with the consent of the other Officers when the Board is in session; or with the consent of the Officers at any other time. S/he shall make any necessary decisions re: application of the club's rules, with the advice of the other Officers. S/he may cast a ballot to break a tie vote, to set a tie vote, or in a secret ballot.

#### **Vice-President:**

The Vice-President shall be the assistant to the President in all matters, and shall be kept informed of all administrative business. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will preside, with all the powers of the office. The Vice-President shall be responsible for selecting and/or soliciting a venue for the LaPerm Congress yearly show and shall be the liaison with the organizing club holding the show. The Vice President will select and organize that show committee and events from among the LaPerm Fanciers International Members.

#### **Secretary:**

The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings. S/he will handle all of the correspondence from the office of the President, and only with the direction of the President to the Member Clubs, the individual members, the Officers of the Association, and any other correspondence of administrative business. S/he will receive the results of the LaPerm Fanciers International Ballots at the Annual meeting, or other occasions of voting, and report them to the membership. The Secretary acts as liaison to any recognized Feline Breed Registry.

#### **Treasurer:**

The Treasurer shall have custody of all the funds of the association, and shall pay all bills approved by the President. The Treasurer shall prepare budgets for all the branches of the club where required, for approval by the elected Officers. The Treasurer will make an accounting of all funds and financial transactions.

#### **Directors:**

There will be up to four Directors on the LaPerm Fanciers International Executive Board. Each Director may be appointed by the President to chair or be responsible for Committees not outlined in the by-laws of the club.

#### **Directors-at-Large:**

The President may appoint Regular or Honorary Members in good standing to be Directors-at-Large to chair special committees to act in an advisory capacity to the Executive Board. Examples: Ethics Director, Newsletter Director, Show Director, Historian, Webmaster. Directors-at-Large will act in an advisory capacity to the Executive Board, but will not be voting members of the Executive Board. Directors-at-Large may appoint Regular, Honorary or Associate members to assist them in accomplishing their objectives.

### **Section E: Vacancies**

Vacancies of any office will be filled by an appointment made by the President until such time as an election is held as set forth in these by-laws. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice-President will assume all the responsibilities of that office until such time as an election is held as set forth in these by-laws.

### **Section F: Delegation of Powers**

The Executive Board may delegate to the Officers of this club such of its duties and powers as it sees fit and as permitted by statute.

## **Article VI. Discipline**

### **Section A: Powers of the Board**

The Executive Board shall have exclusive jurisdiction to discipline members of the club. Disciplinary action may only be exercised with a majority vote of the Executive Board. The Board may reprimand, suspend, expel and/or fine any member upon finding of guilty for:

Any act against club Charter and By-laws.

Distribution of club funds in a manner inconsistent with the objects of the LaPerm Fanciers International.

Any criminal or violent act against another club member or against any recognized Feline Breed Registry member.

Any act against the welfare or objects of any recognized Feline Breed Registry or the LaPerm Fanciers International.

Any conduct or act seriously detrimental to the best interest and welfare of the cat.

Cruel or inhumane treatment in the keeping, breeding and showing, or otherwise dealing with felines.

Willful misrepresentation in connection with the registration of a litter or cat.

The violations of any recognized Feline Breed Registry show rules.

### **Section B: Filing a Protest**

An individual may make protest against the conduct of a club member. A protest against an individual for a violation of the Constitution or By-laws may be made by any member. The complainant must send the substantiated complaint in writing to the President or Vice-President.

### **Section C: Ethics Committee**

The President or Vice-President will turn all documents to the Ethics Committee to investigate the charges. The Ethics Committee will report their findings to the Executive Committee within 30 days of receiving the complaint, at which time a date for formal hearing will be set. The President or Vice-President of the club shall notify the Party or Parties charged within ten (10) days of receipt of a complaint.

## **Article VII. Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by vote at an Annual meeting or by mailed ballots. A majority vote of 2/3 of responding voters is necessary to carry any motion.

## **Article VIII. Newsletter**

1. The President shall appoint a Newsletter Editor.
2. The newsletter may be published from time to time and emailed to all members by the Editor.
3. Members requesting a printed copy may do so by submitting a \$ 9.00 fee per copy to cover costs of printing and mailing.
4. A copy of each Newsletter will be sent to any recognized Feline Breed Registry upon request.
5. A copy will be posted to the Club website that may be downloaded or printed directly from the website.